

Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, MA

Educational Leadership

The Master of Arts program in educational policy and leadership studies with an educational leadership subprogram requires a minimum of 32 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must earn a Graduate College program grade-point average of at least 3.00 in major coursework.

The program prepares individuals for appointments as school principals and for positions in area education agencies and state departments of education. Upon completion of this degree, students will have completed the requirements to earn a master's degree and to obtain pre-K-12 principal and pre-K-12 supervisor of special education endorsement (State of Iowa Endorsement 189). In order to obtain the State of Iowa endorsement, an individual must have at least three years of teaching at the PK-12 level.

With the aid of an advisor, each MA student prepares a plan of study that includes the following core requirements.

Core Requirements

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
EPLS:6201	Foundations of School Administration	3
EPLS:6236	Special Education Administration	3
EPLS:6242	Research for Effective School Leaders	3
EPLS:6260	Contemporary Management Strategies for the Pre-K-12 Principal	3
EPLS:6285	School and Community Relationships	3
EPLS:6298	Legal Aspects of School Personnel	3
EPLS:6381	Analysis and Appraisal of Curriculum	3
EPLS:6383	Supervision and Evaluation	3

Each core class has ten hours of clinical work linked to the course content (total of 80 hours).

Clinical Courses

For Iowa licensure as a principal, students must hold an Iowa teacher license, have taught for three years, and meet the human relations requirement of the State of Iowa. Students complete the core requirements and the following required clinical courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
EPLS:6400	Early Childhood Leadership Clinical	1
EPLS:6401	Elementary Leadership Clinical	3

EPLS:6402	Secondary Leadership Clinical	2
EPLS:6403	Special Education Leadership Clinical	3
EPLS:6406	School Improvement Plan (School Improvement Plan)	1

Electives

Students earning an MA without principal licensure are not required to complete the clinical courses. Instead, they complete the core requirements and a series of electives (8 s.h.) approved by their advisors. Students are permitted to select coursework numbered 3000 and above from counselor education (prefix CSED), teaching and learning (prefix EDTL), educational policy and leadership studies (prefix EPLS), and psychological and quantitative foundations (prefix PSQF). For more detailed information, see the Educational Leadership website.

Final Examination

Students in the MA program with licensure or the MA program without licensure are required to take final examinations at the end of their program of study. The final examination is in the format of a mock interview for a building principal or similar leadership position. The faculty provides candidates with a scenario for which they are expected to prepare a presentation to the educational leadership faculty who acts as the hiring team. The presentation is followed by questioning and feedback. Students must be registered in the Graduate College during their final examination semester if they plan to graduate at the end of the semester.

Admission

Applicants to the MA program in educational leadership must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College. Students must have PK-12 classroom teaching experience. Admission decisions are made through a faculty review process on a rolling basis.